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28 October 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 77 (j)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden: draft resolution

Women, environment and sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/ which made specific reference to the linkages between women, natural resources and environment,

Recalling also its resolution 44/171 of 19 December 1989 on integration of women in development,

Recognizing the critical role that women, both in the informal and formal sector, play in primary environmental care and in achieving sustainable development,

Taking into account the important recommendations of the symposium entitled "Women and Children First", organized by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Geneva in May 1991,

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1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

1. Reaffirms the decision on women in environment and development adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session;

2. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to make the report on its thirty-sixth session, to be held in 1992, available to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

3. Calls upon agencies of the United Nations system to contribute substantially to data collection and capacity-building in the field of women, environment and sustainable development;

4. Urges the agencies of the United Nations system in their operational activities to ensure the integration of women as actors at all levels in the process of planning for a sustainable development;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to include a section on the role of women in environment and sustainable development in the next report on effective mobilization and integration of women in development, taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

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Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Ghana*: draft resolution

Impact of recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, containing the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,

Recalling also its resolution 45/182 of 21 December 1990 on the convening of a special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council, with ministerial participation, on 4 and 5 July 1991 to discuss the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic cooperation,

Taking note of the Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77 on the occasion of their fifteenth annual meeting, held in New York on 30 September 1991, in which the Ministers welcomed the convening of the Special High-level Meeting, 1/

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ A/46/520, annex, para. 4.

1. Notes with satisfaction the holding of the Special High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council, with ministerial participation, at Geneva on 4 and 5 July 1991;

2. Takes note of the report of the Economic and Social Council, in particular as it pertains to the Special High-level Meeting; 2/

3. Notes the assurances given by the developed countries and multilateral financial institutions that the resources allocated to the Eastern European countries would not be allocated at the expense of the developing countries;

4. Notes with concern that, in spite of those assurances, United Nations reports 3/ have indicated cases of diversion of food assistance from developing countries to the Eastern European countries;

5. Urges donor countries to consider triangular arrangements which would involve developing countries in the supply of the requirements of the East financed by credits from the West;

6. Calls for international assistance for developing countries whose economies were adversely affected by recent changes in economic and trade relations with Eastern European countries;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in reviewing the impact of East-West relations on the growth and development of developing countries to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report containing, inter alia:

(a) A discussion of the impact of the measures taken in favour of the Eastern European countries on developing countries, as well as of ways and means of mitigating any adverse impact;

(b) Concrete proposals to prevent the diversion of resources from developing countries.

2/ See A/46/3, chap. II.

3/ See World Economic Survey, 1991 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.II.C.1).

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Agenda item 77 (a)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Ghana*: draft resolution

Strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateral trade

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling its resolution 45/201 of 21 December 1990,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General concerning institutional developments related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade, 1/

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ A/46/565.

1. Urges all Governments and the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to endeavour to present their views to the Secretary-General on this matter;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, an updated report, taking into account the outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Ghana*: draft resolution

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/14 A of 26 October 1989 on the end-of-decade review of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development and its revitalization,

Recalling also the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 1/ and the International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/ in the Assembly stressed in particular the need for developed countries and international organizations to support the efforts of developing countries to create and develop endogenous capacities in the area of scientific and technological capability;

Recalling that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, at its thirty-seventh session, decided that building and strengthening national capacity for the transfer and adaptation of technology for development should be one of the areas on which the United Nations Development Programme should focus attention;

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3, annex.

2/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

Taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session, 4/

Reaffirming that knowledge is the crucial determinant of progress and that science and technology has a critical role in the reactivation of development, especially in developing countries,

Conscious that new and emerging technologies, such as information technologies and new materials, are radically shifting the comparative advantages between different countries, thereby constituting both an opportunity and a challenge to policy makers and international organizations,

Noting that the development of environmentally sound technologies and assured access to them, including access on concessional and preferential terms, constitutes for developing countries a crucial component of a strategic approach to sustainable development,

Recognizing that access to environmentally sound technologies is essential for the full incorporation of environmental concerns into national development strategies,

Recognizing that the United Nations should play a central role in the enhancement of assistance to build the endogenous capacity of developing countries in science and technology and to facilitate their access to technologies on favourable terms,

Recognizing that the role and relevance of the United Nations in this critically important area needs further enhancement and strengthening to respond more forcefully to the emerging needs of developing countries,

1. Endorses resolution 1 (XI) of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development; 5/

2. Urges that national efforts and international development cooperation, in particular through supportive financial and technical assistance from donor Governments, multilateral lending institutions and international agencies, be intensified and strengthened towards endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries;

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 9 (E/1990/9).

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/46/37).

5/ Ibid., chap. II.

3. Requests the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and on the basis of the discussion by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development of the substantive theme of its twelfth session, to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, a comprehensive, analytical report on ways and means of strengthening endogenous capacity-building in the developing countries;

4. Requests the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its twelfth session, after reviewing the report of the Secretary-General on the matter, submitted to it in response to resolution 1 (XI), to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, concrete proposals for organizing a more effective coalition of resources to finance the scientific and technological needs of developing countries.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Note by the Secretariat

1. At the 11th meeting of the Second Committee, on 10 October 1991, the Chairman was asked to prepare, for circulation to the Committee, in the context of paragraph 38 of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution S-18/3, annex), a summary of the general discussion that had taken place under agenda item 89 (Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries).

2. The text of the Chairman's summary is reproduced in the annex to the present note.

ANNEX

Summary of the discussion under agenda item 89, prepared by the Chairman of the Second Committee

The two meetings, on 9 and 10 October 1991, which the Second Committee devoted to the general discussion of agenda item 89 were constructive in content. Delegations of 22 countries made statements on the subject, many speaking on behalf of other countries, thereby encompassing virtually the entire membership of the United Nations. This wide participation in the discussion was particularly noteworthy in view of the fact that as recently as July 1991, during the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council, many delegations had also spoken on this subject. In fact, a number of delegations referred to the statements they had made at that session.

Without exception, all delegations agreed that the adoption of the Declaration at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly constituted a major decision of great significance. It was an important guiding document if not a new charter for strengthening international cooperation. And, as some observed, the Declaration was even more valid today than it was when it was adopted, in May 1990.

Many delegations noted that the Declaration represented a global consensus on development beyond the short term. It was the reference document for international cooperation in the 1990s and had already provided the framework for the successful outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the World Summit for Children and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

A number of delegations drew attention to the principles set out in the Declaration, namely that each country was responsible for its own development and that it was the responsibility of the international community to give strong support to the developing countries by creating a favourable international economic environment. But, as many noted, the Delcaration also contained commitments by both developed and developing countries to adopt policies at the national and international levels in order to achieve long-term development objectives beneficial to all.

The most important challenge for the 1990s was the revitalization of growth and development in the developing countries. This was the primary element of the Declaration, and required sustained growth in the world economy as well as favourable international economic conditions. It should be placed at the top of the agenda of international economic relations.

In order to achieve such revitalization, some delegations argued, the adoption of sound national policies remained indispensable. However, it was recognized that the international community had to support the developing countries by creating a favourable international economic environment. In this regard, the emerging common view on anti-inflationary policies,

increasing savings, raising savings ratios in both developed and developing countries and improving public sector savings by reducing government deficits had to be pursued.

Many delegations from developing countries pointed out that their countries had adopted far-reaching reform policies, including structural changes, market-oriented policies and popular participation. In fact, commitments made by developing countries in the Declaration were already being implemented. Various examples of such activities were mentioned: elimination of export restrictions, deregulation of interest rates and of investments, dismantling of state monopolies and privatization of national banks, reduction of fiscal deficits and of tariff barriers and removal of non-tariff barriers. A few delegations mentioned the occurrence of regional economic integration, as advocated in paragraph 34 of the Declaration, for example the Mercosur Treaty, in order to exploit relative comparative advantage and to improve the life of the people in the member countries.

But, as many delegations observed, those new economic policies had been adopted by the developing countries at great sacrifice and high social cost, leading, in many instances, to lowered standards of living. This was especially so in Africa, where many of the least developed countries were located. Solidarity and new programmes in the 1990s were needed to help Africa out of its current impasse. As some delegations advocated, the pursuit of appropriate national policies should be linked to international cooperation.

After having spelt out policies adopted in their countries in keeping with the commitments expressed in the Declaration, representatives of the developing countries pointed out that their efforts needed to be matched by the developed countries. Domestic efforts in developing countries would not be sufficient if the international community failed to find solutions to macroeconomic imbalances. More significant improvements in the international economic environment had to be achieved than had occurred since the adoption of the Declaration more than a year ago. Despite the meetings of the Group of Seven in Houston and London, the interests of developing countries had not sufficiently been taken into account.

Delegations of the industrialized countries, however, provided a number of examples of the implementation of their commitments in keeping with the Declaration. Thus, policies pursued in the European Community were designed to improve its growth prospects, which in turn would improve growth and trade prospects in the world as a whole. Similarly, in the United States of America efforts were being made to restrain federal spending through budgetary reforms. At the international level, there was a need for consistent and mutually supportive policies. This was being attempted by the Group of Seven through economic policy coordination processes in order, for example, to reduce trade imbalances and to achieve stability in exchange markets.

Still, many representatives of developing countries were of the opinion that the developed countries had not done enough. The gap between North and

South had continued to widen and there was a dangerous trend of a concentration of development in a few countries. The new political realities of the post-cold-war era should contribute to closing that gap and be used to improve the dialogue between North and South. Heavy debt burdens, the direction of resource flows, worsening terms of trade, extreme poverty and degradation of the environment remained obstacles to development in developing countries. Commitments by developed countries needed urgent implementation, particularly with respect to the alleviation of the debt burden, the increase in financial flows and the arrest of protectionist measures.

In international trade, it was essential to adhere to the principle of comparative advantage. Trade restrictions were also impeding the full use of human resources in the developing countries. A speedy successful outcome of the Uruguay Round was crucial to safeguarding a competitive trading environment. An all out effort was needed to end the stalemate at the current negotiations and to make greater progress in liberalizing international trade.

Developing countries were not asking for a hand-out but for the chance to grow. They did not seek charity but clear rules of the game so that they could benefit from the principle of comparative advantage. Representatives of developing countries noted that, at present, it was impossible to compete with the subsidies granted in the developed countries.

Although important steps had been taken to reduce the external debt burden, many delegations stated that a comprehensive solution had yet to be found. Many representatives of developing countries stressed the need for new initiatives regarding the debt strategy; what was required, they stated, was a substantial reduction in debt-servicing burdens. Some pointed out that the debt strategy should also include that group of countries which had pursued prudent management of their economies.

Regarding financing of development, it was noted that there were still large fiscal deficits in a number of developed countries, which were exerting additional pressure on international financial markets. In fact, as some delegations observed, instead of financing development, the opposite was occurring. Consequently, many supported the Secretary-General's proposal to convene an international conference on development financing. Some delegations also referred to the statement made by the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that there were two major potential sources for financing development, namely the elimination of military expenditures and the cessation of expenditures associated with agricultural protection measures. Furthermore, many urged that the resources of the Bretton Woods institutions should be increased.

On the other hand, a number of delegations from developed countries pointed to a number of positive developments in international economic relations. The advent of the single market in the European Community in 1992 should be beneficial to exporters who, instead of having to deal with 12 separate markets, would be able to operate in only one, which would be growing at a faster rate.

Meanwhile, the existing debt strategy was, in the opinion of some delegations, making effective inroads in dealing with debt. Proposals had been made for far-reaching debt reduction for low-income countries, and the debt problems of middle-income countries were also being tackled. One delegation noted that the strategy for debt relief had avoided the collapse of the international financial system and that the Inter-American Development Bank had joined the World Bank and IMF in providing support for commercial debt reduction.

As far as development cooperation and trade were concerned, the Lomé Convention had been renewed for the fourth time: Africa remained a priority area for assistance, and assistance for the Mediterranean region had increased. Reference was made to the "Enterprise for the Americas Initiative", which was in the process of being implemented through trade agreements between Canada, Mexico and the United States of America. The European Community remained committed to reaching the official development assistance (ODA) target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as well as to the guidelines adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. It was stressed that the capital requirements of Eastern Europe and the USSR would not adversely affect assistance for the developing countries.

It was recognized that closer coordination of aid efforts among donors was required. It was also recognized that a greater effort with regard to both quality and quantity of assistance was needed in view of the democratization and reform processes which were currently under way in many developing countries. However, as one delegation pointed out, there was a diversity of agendas among developed countries but even more so among developing countries because of the diversity of situations. Therefore, a case-by-case approach to development problems of developing countries was needed.

A few delegations mentioned the appeal made in the Declaration to give support to the countries of Eastern Europe and to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Their integration in the world economy was of paramount importance so that they could play a more active role, including assistance to developing countries. It was noted that they were in a difficult transitional stage in political, economic and social terms as the old administrative command structures were collapsing. Therefore the international community should be as supportive as possible towards those countries. In that regard, reference was made to the Group of 24 action plan on initiatives with respect to financial and technical support and trade liberalization. Some delegations also referred to the discussion during the Special High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council in July 1991, which had shown that an advanced Eastern Europe and USSR would be beneficial to the developing countries.

Some delegations noted the recent proposals on armed forces and nuclear weapons reductions. This favourable situation for disarmament in all countries was unprecedented; it made possible the transfer of resources for peaceful purposes. In this area the United Nations could play a potentially

powerful role, particularly, as one delegation observed, with respect to the problems associated with conversion of industry from military to civilian production. Many delegations observed that the scaling down of military expenditures would release resources in both developed and developing countries and create favourable conditions in developed countries to fulfil their commitments.

A number of delegations pointed to the relationship between economic performance and development on the one hand and open and accountable government and human development on the other. They noted that sustainable development could not be achieved without democracy, but, as some delegations also stated, without development there could be no sustainable democracy. While many agreed with the relationship between development and human rights, they also warned that this should not lead to the posing of new conditionalities.

Many delegations said they looked forward to the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the International Conference on Population and Development, all of which provided an opportunity to address the question of what was constraining growth and development in the developing countries. It was important that adherence to the principles of the Declaration be maintained in those meetings. A few delegations called for UNCTAD to become more analytical and be more closely linked to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Bretton Woods institutions.

Finally, many delegations noted the important role of the United Nations in fostering international economic cooperation. Much would depend on the political will of all countries to implement the Declaration. In this regard, many delegations were looking forward to the political review of the Declaration in combination with the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, to be held at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, and some hoped that the current session would provide firm guidance for that review. One delegation proposed that the Declaration be reviewed regularly, for example every three years, together with the Strategy, as those instruments were linked in content; such a review would strengthen the role of the United Nations.